

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 11540 131538Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----037413 131540Z /46

O P 131503Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9782
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T BONN 11540

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SO, US, ET, MASS, PDEV, MOPS, GW
SUBJECT: SOMALIAN REQUEST FOR U.S. ARMS

REFS: (A) STATE 161221; (B) BONN 10990 (EXDIS-NOTAL);
(C) BONN 9858 (NOTAL); (D) BONN 7380 (NOTAL)

1. THE U.S. AND THE FRG HAVE FORMALLY EXCHANGED VIEWS
ON THE HORN ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS OVER THE PAST
SEVERAL MONTHS: BRIDFINGS IN BONN AND WASHINGTON (REF
D), ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE'S VISIT TO
BONN (REF C), AND, S/P DIRECTOR LAKE'S CONSULTATIONS IN BONN (REF
B).THESE CONVERSATIONS HAVE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THE
FRG THINKING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SOMALIA IS VERY SIMI-

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PAGE 02 BONN 11540 131538Z

LAR TO OUR OWN. THE FRG AGREES THAT IT IS DEFINITELY
IN WESTERN INTERESTS TO WEAN SOMALIA FROM ITS ONE-
SIDED DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FRG HOLDS TO ITS POLICY THAT
AFRICA SHOULD NOT BECOME ANOTHER THEATER FOR GREAT
POWER RIVALRIES. FOR THIS REASON, THE GERMANS ARE NOT

LIKELY TO BE UPSET WITH A U.S. DECISION AGAINST
INJECTING U.S. ARMS DIRECTLY INTO THIS VOLATILE REGION
AT THIS TIME. THE GERMANS WOULD BE MUCH MORE COMFORT-
ABLE WITH U.S. AID BEING FUNNELED THROUGH SOMALIA'S
ARAB NEIGHBORS (SUDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA) OR AS PART OF A
COORDINATED WESTERN INITIATIVE. AS A FIRST STEP,
HOWEVER, THE FRG WOULD WELCOME THE TYPES OF SUPPORT
ACTIVITIES OUTLINED IN PARA 7 REF A.

3. SINCE THE FRG IS BOUND BY A SELF-INPOSED EMBARGO ON
MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO AREAS OF TENSION (WHICH INCLUDES
THE HORN), IT LOOKS TO ITS EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN
PARTNERS TO PROVIDE THE MILITARY AID IT CANNOT. THE
GERMANS ARE LIKELY TO ASK ONLY THAT THE WESTERN
RESPONSES TO SOMALI REQUESTS BE COORDINATED.
CASH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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